

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, CSCE, SHUM, PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: ROUND-UP OF US/USSR MARRIAGE CASES

REF: MOSCOW 1252 (NOTAL, MOSCOW 1256 (NOTAL), MOSCOW 238 (NOTAL),
LONDON 1807 (NOTAL), MOSCOW 1570 (NOTAL, MOSCOW 1246 (NOTAL).

1. DURING FEBRUARY 9 MEETING MFA COUNSULAR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS
N.G. BULAVIN AND V.I. ARTSYBASHEV, CONSOFF AGAIN RAISED CONLON/
NENSHIKOV, SANENTZ/PETROVA AND CHERRY/KALNINS MARRIAGE CASES.
ARTSYBASHEV PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING REPLIES:

2. CONLON/MENSHIKOV CASE (MOSCOW 1252) - LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE
INFORMED MFA THAT THEY HAVE "NOTHING AGAINST" MARRIAGE BUT INSIST
THAT CONLON'S TRIP MUST BE HANDLED AS A "PRIVATE VISIT". MENSHIKOV
MUST, THEREFORE, SEND CONLON FORMAL INVITATION AND SUPPORT HER VISA
REQUEST AT OVIR. ARTSYBASHEV STATED MFA HAS ALREADY SENT SOVIET
EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AUTHORIZATION FOR ISSUANCE OF VISA TO CONLON
UPON PRESENTATION OF AN INVITATION FROM MENSHIKOV. CONSOFF
DISCUSSED CASE WITH MENSHIKOV WHO COINCIDENTALLY APPEARED IN MOSCOW
FEBRUARY 9. HE AGREED TO SEND CONLON REQUIRED INVITATION ASAP
AND STATED THAT HE WOULD STAY IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY IN FUTURE.

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3. SANENTZ/PETROVA CASE (MOSCOW 1256 - ARTSYBASHEV STATED THAT
CASE IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND THAT
MFA WOULD INFORM EMBASSY AS SOON AS REPLY IS RECEIVED.

4. CHERRY/KALNINS CASE (MOSCOW 238, LONDON 1807) - CONSOFFS
POINTED OUT THAT MS. CHERRY HAS RECEIVED INVITATION FOR PRIVATE
VISIT FROM KALNINS AND RENEWED HER APPLICATION WITH SOVIET

EMBASSY IN LONDON. WE STATED THAT MS. CHERRY AND HER FIANCE APPEAR TO HAVE COMPLIED WITH INSTRUCTIONS OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES AND REQUESTED THAT MFA ATTEMPT TO EXPEDITE RESOLUTION OF CASE. ARTSYBASHEV AGREED TO CHECK WHETHER VISA AUTHORIZATION COULD BE EXPEDITED.

5. LOOS/MALININA CASE (76 MOSCOW 1570) ARTSYBASHEV UNEXPECTEDLY VOLUNTEERED THAT LONG-STALLED LOOS/MALININA CASE IS AGAIN UNDER ACTIVE REVIEW. SINCE VYACHESLAV NEPOMNASCHIY'S DEPARTURE (MOSCOW 1246), LOOS/MALININA CASE IS LONGEST STANDING INSTANCE OF SOVIET REFUSAL TO ISSUE AMCIT ENTRY VISA FOR PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE TO SOVIET CITIZEN.

6. COMMENT: RECENT OFFICIAL STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS IN US/USSR MARRIAGE CASES HAVE FLUCTUATED BETWEEN STUBBORN ADHERENCE TO LONG-STANDING RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES AND PRAGMATIC EFFORTS TO CUT PR LOSSES BY RESOLVING TROUBLESOME CASES. SOVIETS CONTINUE TO EVINCE NO INTENTION TO MAKE IT EASY FOR AMERICANS TO MARRY SOVIET CITIZENS. FOR INSTANCE, MFA OFFICIALS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY INTEND TO MAINTAIN RESTRICTIVE VISA PRACTICES, PARTICULARLY REFUSAL TO ISSUE TOURIST VISAS TO APPLICANTS WHO STATE THAT THEY INTEND TO MARRY WHILE IN USSR. IN THIS, HOWEVER, SOVIET FORMAL POLICY IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF US IN THAT WE DO NOT ISSUE TOURIST VISAS FOR PURPOSES OF MARRIAGE EITHER.)

7. ON THE OTHER HAND, MFA OFFICIALS HAVE RECENTLY DEMONSTRATED INCREASED WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE IN WORKING LEVEL DIALOGUE ON PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN US/USSR MARRIAGE CASES. WHILE THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE NOT LIKELY TO LEAD TO EASY RESOLUTIONS OF "TOUGH " CASES, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEY HAVE YIELDED SOME PRACTICAL RESULTS, SUCH AS NOTIFICATION IN MENSHIKOV/CONLON CASE THAT VISA WILL BE ISSUED WHEN "PRIVATE VISIT" PROCEDURES ARE COMPLETED. UNORTHODOX RESOLUTION OF THEIMER/ NEPOMNYASCHIY CASE FURTHER INDICATES SOVIET DESIRE TO GET OFF HORNS OF PR DILEMMA CREATED BY STALLED MARRIAGE CASES.

8. MIXED AND SOMETIMES INCONSISTENT SOVIET BEHAVIOR IN RECENT CASES SUGGESTS THAT DEVELOPMENT OF A POLICY TO DEAL WITH INCREASINGLY FREQUENT US/USSR MARRIAGES IS STILL SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLY DISAGREEMENT WITHIN THE SOVIET BUREAUCRACY. WE SUSPECT THAT PERIOD BETWEEN NOW AND BELGRADE WILL SEE RESOLUTION OF OTHER LONG-STANDING CASES, BUT THE LONGER-TERM SOVIET APPROACHE TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CSCE FINAL ACT PROVISIONS ON FACILITATION OF MARRIAGES REMAINS UNPREDICTABLE.
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